

# SENATOR ALLIE CRAYCRAFT



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*The national recession has taken a heavy toll on Indiana and most other states. The downturn has cut into state sales, income, and other tax revenues. At the same time, the federal government has either frozen or reduced funding which it provides to states for a number of programs and initiatives. As a result, most states, including Indiana, are experiencing a budget squeeze.*

*However, Indiana continues to move forward and make significant strides. During the swearing in ceremony of Indiana's first female Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Davis noted a few of the state's recent accomplishments:*

- *Indiana continues to have the lowest state and local taxes as a percent of personal income of any Midwestern state.*
- *In 2002, Indiana was the only state in the nation to conduct a comprehensive overhaul of its tax system. In the process, it eliminated the corporate gross income tax, reduced property taxes for most Hoosiers, and began phasing out the inventory tax.*
- *Indiana's K-12 academic standards are among the highest in the nation.*
- *In 2000, 60% of Indiana's high school graduates went on to college, ranking the state 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation, up from 37% in 1986 when the state ranked 40<sup>th</sup>.*
- *The Community College of Indiana program has added 21,000 students since it started in 2000 – an increase of 50%.*
- *With the establishment of a new research center at Purdue, Indiana will remain at the forefront in the area of agricultural research and development.*
- *Indiana is the only state in the nation to have a network operation center for Internet 2, the next generation Internet.*
- *With the completion of Prophetstown State Park, all Hoosiers will be within an hour's drive of a state park or state recreation area.*

*While we as a state face many challenges, we must not lose sight of the progress we've made. These advances would not have occurred without bipartisan cooperation among members of the General Assembly and the consensus-building efforts of the late Governor Frank O'Bannon and his successor Governor Joe Kernan. In the months ahead, I look forward to working with my colleagues to help foster a stronger state in which to live and raise our families.*

*Wishing you a healthy and happy new year,*

*Allie V. Craycraft*

**REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 26  
INCLUDING ALL OF DELAWARE COUNTY AND  
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP IN NORTHEAST MADISON COUNTY.**

## 2004 legislative session underway

### *General Assembly addresses property taxes*

Every November, all 150 legislators gather at the State House in Indianapolis for the annual Organization Day, when we make final preparations for the session to follow in January. This year, however, we will immediately begin considering legislation to deal with property tax relief and the ongoing property tax reassessment.

Ideas to be considered range from providing additional targeted property tax relief to the elderly and working families to tighter restrictions on local government spending. Some of these proposals may require lengthy consideration, but I am confident we will accomplish important goals prior to the scheduled start of the 2004 session in January.

Chief among these goals is the extension of the filing deadline for the Homestead Credit and numerous property tax deductions. I sup-

port legislation which would retroactively extend the original May 10<sup>th</sup> deadline to December 10<sup>th</sup> as suggested by Governor Joe Kernan thus allowing many taxpayers to take advantage of these important tax relief programs.

Some suggestions regarding legislation to place new limits on local spending should also be considered and would certainly help control property tax growth in the future. I support many of these initiatives, but I also remain committed to an even bolder vision.

Indiana needs a tax system where the burden does not fall so heavily on working families, seniors and farming communities. This means decreasing the overall reliance on property taxes and making other taxes less regressive. We have made progress, but there is much more work to be done.

## Workforce training

Indiana's WorkOne Centers offer a one-stop shop for Hoosier employees and employers. Established through Indiana's Department of Workforce Development, there are 27 WorkOne Centers throughout the state offering an array of services, including:

- ◆ Job counseling and training
- ◆ Unemployment insurance
- ◆ GED training and testing
- ◆ Veterans employment and training services

Employers and employees can also access CS3, Indiana's computer job-matching system, at any WorkOne Center or online at <https://cs3.dwd.state.in.us>.

For more information about Indiana's workforce development programs or to find the WorkOne Center nearest you, please contact the Department of Workforce Development at 1-888-967-5663 or online at [www.in.gov/dwd](http://www.in.gov/dwd).

## LOOKING FOR LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION?

Visit the Indiana General Assembly's website at

**[www.in.gov/legislative](http://www.in.gov/legislative)**

Now available online:

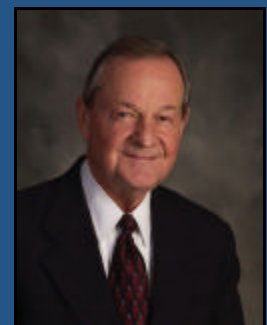
- ◆ House and Senate session meeting times
- ◆ Committee hearing dates
- ◆ General bill information

You may also contact the Office of Legislative Information by calling 317-232-9856.

## In Memory of Governor Frank O'Bannon

*On September 13, Indiana lost a devoted leader when Governor Frank O'Bannon passed away. O'Bannon was a dedicated public servant who was wholly committed to improving the lives of all Hoosiers, especially children. Throughout his 30 year career in public service, O'Bannon was considered compassionate, kind and loyal. He was best known as a consensus-builder who had a talent for bringing opposing groups together in seeking resolutions.*

*O'Bannon was a great governor who will be sorely missed. May his spirit of public service and legacy live on in the hearts and minds of all Hoosiers for generations to come.*



Governor Frank O'Bannon  
1930—2003

# 2004 Legislative Questionnaire

You may also complete this survey on-line at [www.state.in.us/S26](http://www.state.in.us/S26)

Feel free to have another family member, as well as yourself, respond to questions.

Respondent  
#1

Respondent  
#2

1. Do you support the use of state-allocated tobacco settlement funds to supplement state budget shortfalls instead of its intended purpose of funding tobacco prevention and control programs?

1. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

2. With more than 12,000 employees, the Family & Social Services Administration is the largest state agency administering numerous human service programs including Medicaid, child welfare and mental health. Some people believe the agency has become too large and is losing some of its effectiveness. Do you support legislation that would divide the agency into several smaller agencies?

2. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

3. Do you support non-elected board members, e.g. Library Boards, having the ability to levy taxes?

3. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

4. Regarding new school construction, do you support a change from the current petition remonstrance process (the collection of signatures on a petition) to a local voter referendum?

4. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

5. Do you support efforts to raise the age at which a child may drop out of high school from age 16 to age 18?

5. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

6. Currently, children under age 4 are required to be in child restraint systems, e.g. booster seats, while in motor vehicles. Do you support legislation to enforce the use of child restraint systems in motor vehicles for children up to the age of 8?

6. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

7. Motor vehicles with truck plates, including some sport utility vehicles (SUVs), are currently not included under the law that requires the use of seat belts. Do you support legislation which would require the use of seatbelts by front seat passengers in all motor vehicles?

7. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

8. Given Indiana's burgeoning prison population, do you support legislation to reduce current mandatory minimum sentences for certain non-violent offenses as an approach to alleviate prison overcrowding?

8. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

9. To replace other taxes, such as property taxes, do you support a proposal to expand the state sales tax to not only cover products, but also cover most non-medical services, e.g. car repairs, travel planning, dry cleaning?

9. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

10. Do you support legislation which would make the current State Office of the Clerk of the Courts an appointed position instead of an elected position?

10. Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Support ☐  
Oppose ☐

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!*



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## Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving these periodic updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please send me issue updates at my home address printed below.
- ☐ Please send me issue updates via email. My email address is: (print clearly)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

If address is different than above, please print  
corrections clearly or affix mailing label here.

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**Craycraft '04 Legislative Survey Response**